3809
(UT-924-OA)
UTU-72488

CERTIFIED MAIL-Return Receipt Requested

NOTICE

Claimant:	:	Plan Serial No.: UTU-72488
Absolute Mining & Minerals, Inc.	:	
1350 East 145 South	:	BLM Bond Required: $8,200
Lehi, UT 84043	:	
	:	

Surface Management Bond Required

This office has been notified that plan of operations described above has been examined and found satisfactory. However, a surface management bond must be furnished with the Utah State Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The bond is to cover operations conducted by or on behalf of the principal on the above-mentioned plan of operation.

The Grand Resource Area has recommended a bond in the amount of $8,200 be filed with the BLM. A surety bond or personal bond in the amount of $8,200 must be filed with this office within 60 days from receipt of this notice.

BLM surety and personal bond forms are enclosed for your use. If you have any questions, please contact Opolonia Abeyta at (801) 539-4123.

WALTER D. PHELPS

Chief, Branch of
Mining Law Adjudication

cc: Grand Resource Office

"FILE COPY"

Moab District
Grand Resource Area
82 East Dogwood, Suite G
Moab, Utah 84532

3809
(UT-068)

MAR - 9 1995

3/9/95

Memorandum

To: Mining Claims Unit Supervisor (UT-924)

From: Area Manager, Grand (UT-068)

Subject: Reclamation Bonding for 43 CFR 3809 Plan of Operations UTU-72488

We request that a reclamation bond of $8200 (eight thousand and two hundred dollars) be secured by your office from Absolute Mining & Minerals, Inc. (AMMI), 1350 East 145 South, Lehi, Utah 84043, which is the operator for UTU-72488. AMMI's representative is Mr. Dale Snyder, phone (801) 768-3315, mobile (801) 372-1258. This bond must be in-place before the plan of operations for UTU-72488 can be approved.

Please notify our office as soon as the bond is in-place. Should you have any questions, please contact Sal Venticinque at (801) 259-2141.

S/ BRAD D. PALMER

8 March, 1995

To:
Sal Venticinque
BLM

From:
Kraig Johnson
AMMI

Dear Sal,

The reclamation bond for the Delores River mining project (reference # UTU-72488) will be posted by:

Absolute Mining and Minerals, Incorporated (AMMI)
145 South, 1350 East
Lehi, UT 84043

Point of contact for these matters is:

Dale Snyder
Phone (801) 768-3315
Mobile (801) 372-1258

Thank You,

Kraig Johnson

8 March, 1995

To:
Sal Venticinque
BLM

From:
Dale Snyder
Donald C. Johnson
AMMI

Dear Sal;

In reference to our phone conversation January 25th, 1995, let me clarify the following information:

At the end of the mining project (reference # UTU 72488), AMMI, as part of the reclamation work, will remove the gate to the property and reclaim the road leading from the gate to the mill building.

Thank You,

Dale Snyder

Donald C. Johnson

File Code: 3809

DECISION RECORD AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

EA Log No.: UT-068-95-023 Serial No.: UTU-72488

Project: Placer mining and reclamation

Project Location/Subject Land: T23S, R24E (SLM), Section 11: Lots 5, 7, Grand County, Utah

Applicant: Absolute Mining & Minerals, Inc. (AMMI), 1350 East 145 South, Lehi, Utah 84043

BLM Office: Grand Resource Area, (801) 259-2141

Decision: It is my decision to grant approval for 43 CFR 3809 Plan of Operations UTU-72488 to Absolute Mining & Minerals, Inc. (AMMI) pursuant to the authority of Title III of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.A. 1731). The plan of operations will be issued for a term of 3 years and will be extended if it continues to be used for the authorized purpose. The plan of operations will cover approximately 4.1 acres, and will be located within the following Public Land: T23S, R24E (SLM), Section 11: Lots 5, 7. This authorization will be made under the authority of and subject to the terms and conditions in 43 CFR 3809 and the stipulations listed below.

Finding of No Significant Impacts: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment referenced above, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Rationale for Decision: The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue and unnecessary environmental degradation, and is in conformance with the Grand RMP, approved July 1985. The project would enhance visual and other land values and would result in reclamation of approximately 4.1 acres of currently-disturbed land.

Stipulations: This decision incorporates by reference the attached stipulations that were developed in the environmental assessment to mitigate adverse impacts which may result from the action permitted by this decision.

RECEIVED
AUG 20 1999
DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

NOTE

Area Manager

3/2/95
Date

STIPULATIONS **File Code: 3809**

EA Log No. UT-068-95-023 **Serial No. UTU-72488**

Project: Placer mining and reclamation

Project Location/Subject Land: T23S, R24E (SLM), Section 11: Lot 5, 7, Grand County, Utah

Applicant: Absolute Mining & Minerals, Inc. (AMMI), 1350 East 145 South, Lehi, Utah 84043

BLM Office: Grand Resource Area, (801) 259-2141

The following stipulations have been developed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts which may result from the action permitted by the accompanying decision. The action permitted and its anticipated impacts are fully described in the environmental assessment referenced above. These stipulations are:

(1) All mitigation measures identified by AMMI as part of its proposed operation are hereby made part of the above-referenced stipulations (see **PROPOSED ACTION** in attached environmental assessment UT-068-95-023). In addition, the following BLM stipulations apply:

(2) Topsoil and subsoil removed under this project are to be stockpiled separately. These stockpiles are to be utilized during reclamation.

(3) Following the spreading of subsoil and topsoil the following species shall be seeded at the rates indicated (double the rate if the seed is broadcast only):

Species	Pounds Per Acre
Indian ricegrass	3
Sand dropseed	1
Shadscale	2
Winterfat (white sage)	2
Prostrate kochia	1
Yellow sweetclover	1

(4) To avoid impacts to fishes in the Dolores River, water extraction shall meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) requirements and specifications. Water shall not be pumped from the mouth of tributaries or from eddies and backwaters. Pumping is not allowed between 8 PM and 9 AM during the period from June through August to avoid larval drift. When feasible, pumps are to be located off-channel or in the main current rather than near shore. The intake inlet shall be screened with 1/8 inch mesh.

(5) A reclamation bond of $8200.00, in a form acceptable to the BLM, must be posted by (or on behalf of) AMMI. This bond must be in-place before Plan of Operations UTU-72488 can be approved.

CHECKLIST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA Log No. UT-068-95-023 **Serial No. UTU-72488**

Project: Placer mining and reclamation

Project Location/Subject Land: T23S, R24E (SLM), Section 11: Lot 5, 7, Grand County, Utah

Applicant: Absolute Mining & Minerals, Inc. (AMMI), 1350 East 145 South, Lehi, Utah 84043

BLM Office: Grand Resource Area, (801) 259-2141

The following mandatory items have been considered for this environmental assessment. Items that may be impacted have been discussed within the environmental assessment; the remainder will not be affected and are not discussed.

Proposed Action:

	May be Impacted	Will Not Be Affected		Specialist Signature/Date
1.	[ ]	[✓]	Air Quality	2/27/95
2.	[ ]	[✓]	Threatened or Endangered Plants	2/27/95
3.	[ ]	[✓]	Floodplains and Wetlands	2/27/95
4.	[ ]	[✓]	Prime or Unique Farmlands	2/27/95
5.	[ ]	[✓]	Water Resources	2/27/95
6.	[ ]	[✓]	Cultural or Historic Resources	Bruce D. Louthan 2/27/95
7.	[ ]	[✓]	Paleontological Resources	Bruce D. Louthan 2/27/95
8.	[ ]	[ ]	Threatened or Endangered Animals	2-28-95
9.	[ ]	[✓]	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	2-28-95
10.	[ ]	[✓]	Wilderness Values	2-28-95
11.	[ ]	[✓]	Wild and Scenic Rivers	2-28-95
12.	[ ]	[✓]	Visual Resources	2-28-95
13.	[ ]	[✓]	Wastes, Hazardous/Solid	RM McClure 2/28/95

The above project has been analyzed for conformance with BLM plans and consistency with local government plans. Significant discrepancies are discussed in the body of the environmental assessment.

BLM Plan and Date: Grand Area Resource Management Plan, July 1985
Local Government Plans and Dates: Grand County, Utah -- A Master Plan for Development, Oct. 1979

UT-060-1790-4 (July, 1986)

INTRODUCTION

UT-068-95-023

LAND STATUS

The subject land is owned by the United States and is managed by the BLM. It comprises about 4.1 acres of the Dolor #3 placer mining claim (UMC 143991), located on May 26, 1975. No mineral leases/permits or mineral materials permits are known to be present.

The subject land is located neither within a Wilderness Study Area nor within an HR-1500 area. It is, however, located within a powersite withdrawal area first open to mining claim location in 1954. The land is also located in an area under study for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System (BLM files and records).

NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

AMMI believes that the gravel deposits on the subject land contain economically recoverable precious metals values. These values would be recovered through a placer mining operation. While doing this mining, AMMI also desires to reclaim land disturbances made by previous operators. In compliance with 43 CFR 3809 Surface Management Regulations, a plan of operations has been submitted for approval, because the subject land is within an area under study for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System [43 CFR 3809.1-4(b)(2)].

CONFORMANCE WITH LAND USE PLAN

This proposed action has been determined to be in conformance with the terms and conditions of the Grand Resource Area Management Plan (July 1985), as required by 43 CFR 1610.5. This is shown on page 32 of the plan and reads as follows "Areas not specifically withdrawn from mineral entry will continue to be managed under the 43 CFR 3809 regulations and the mining laws to...". The proposed action is in conformance with the objectives of other resources on pages 15 and 16 of the plan.

RELATIONSHIP TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, OR OTHER PLANS

The proposed action is consistent with Grand County's October 1979 Master Plan for Development: "Support the highest economically allowable development of known mineral and energy resources throughout the county".

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

PROPOSED ACTION

Attachments 1 and 2 show topographic features, disturbance areas, etc. for the placer mining and reclamation project proposed by Absolute Mining & Minerals, Inc. (AMMI). Roughly 3.1 acres of land surface disturbance/redisturbance would take place over the three-year life of the project. Access to the site for the majority of the time would be from the south via a county road. This road would be jointly maintained by AMMI and Grand County. The entrance to the mine area via this road would have a locked gate. AMMI would provide the access key to BLM. AMMI would, at the project's conclusion, remove the gate and reclaim that part of the access road from the gate to the mill building. Approximate acreage for this road segment is 1 acre. In the event that access be from the north, such access would be through the county-maintained ford.

The existing metal building would be utilized during the life of the project as a warehouse, equipment storage, and inventory area. The building would be dismantled and removed from the mine site upon project completion. The mine site would be manned by a five-man crew twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The crew would consist of two backhoe operators, a bulldozer operator, a wash plant operator, and a foreman. Mining activities would be conducted five days per week, the daily mining shift being ten hours long. Idle time would be used to dismantle and prepare junk for removal off site. The main camp would consist of self-contained mobile trailers. Portable toilets would be located at convenient locations near work stations. Commercial waste disposal is currently under negotiation.

Mining would progress from west to east, commencing at the head ore mine area as shown in Attachment 2. The mining rate would be 250 cubic yards of material per daily mine shift. This material would consist of a mixture of old tailings from previous operations and ore gravel. Reclamation would take place concurrently with mining. This reclamation would consist of backfilling disturbed areas with tailings, contouring these areas to conform as much as possible to existing terrain, placement of topsoil from newly disturbed areas on the reclamation sites, and reseeding to BLM specifications.

Diesel-powered equipment used in this operation would consist of a bulldozer, a track loader, a tire loader, a river draw pump, and two six inch high-pressure pumps. Each backhoe has a 3 cubic yard capacity bucket. The bulldozer would be used for reclamation and cleanup purposes. Most of this equipment is shown in Attachment 3. The daily diesel requirement for all this equipment would be approximately 500 gallons per day. The diesel and all other hazardous materials would be stored on-site according to MSHA regulations, in a bermed and lined area sufficient to handle storage failure. The river draw pump would be protected from high runoff water and rising river levels through a 1/4" screened inlet that is adequately lined and bermed. This screening would also prevent marine life intake into the pump system. The high-pressure pump areas would be lined and bermed for hazardous material control. The 4" diameter, 500' long water pipeline shown in Attachment 3 would be lie above ground. AMMI would like to use an existing 10000 gallon capacity railroad storage tank left by the previous operator for this diesel storage in lieu of the storage areas. However, careful testing for diesel fuel integrity would be done prior to such utilization.

Oil, grease and other lubricants would be stored in secured areas that would be lined and bermed to prevent seepage. Such disposable materials would be stored and transported from the area to the proper agencies that re-cycle used oils and greases.

AMMI has obtained an Approved Temporary Application from the Utah State Division of Water Rights for permission to divert and use water from the Dolores River (see Attachment 4). The initial amount of this water needed to charge the system shown schematically in Attachment 3 would be 18700 gallons. The bulk of this water would be re-cycled in a closed circuit through the system and under high pressure by the two pressure pumps. Make-up water would be stored in the pond shown on Attachment 2. All ponds except the waste recovery pond would be artificially lined prior to commencing operations. AMMI does not consider it possible, due to the alluvial gravel present in that pond, to artificially line it. Thus, because of expected water loss from this waste pond, initial make-up water from the river is calculated to be as much as approximately 10000 gallons per shift. However, AMMI expects that fines from the gravel would soon provide a natural liner which would prevent water leakage from the waste pond, minimizing the need for make-up water.

The mine plan for ore processing would not call for any chemical infusion, surfactants, or reagents of any kind whatsoever. Therefore, any water returning to the river would be within Utah State water quality guideline standards.

The wash plant would consist of a fully portable 36"X 30' trommel, a 3" maximum grizzly feed bin and belt, a magnetic separator, and a discharge belt to handle oversize waste. All material less than 1/4" in size would proceed to a sluice system, the waste material being de-watered and discharged for use in reclamation. Final recovery materials would consist of a concentrate of black sands and metals which would be trucked out of the area for final processing. The expected life of the project is 3 years.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no action alternative would be denial of approval for this proposed placer mining operation.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED

No alternatives were considered.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

VEGETATION AND SOIL

Affected Environment

Existing undisturbed soils in the subject land (approximately 0.4 acres of the 4.1 acre parcel) are 6 inches to 20 inches deep, according to soil surveys. For such soils the surface horizons are shallow sandy loams. Below this there are sandy loams, gravelly sandy loams, stony loams, very stony silty clay loams, and/or very cobbly loams. These soils probably have a high potential for water erosion, according to soil surveys. Approximately 3.7 acres (90%) of the proposed mine site has been disturbed by previous mining activities. Therefore, any mixture of the above soils could be present in such areas.

Vegetation includes scattered Russian thistle, cheatgrass, broom snakeweed, shadscale, greasewood, rabbitbrush, curly grass, and Indian ricegrass. Vegetation is more abundant on undisturbed areas relative to previously disturbed areas. In addition, vegetation in undisturbed areas does not have as many annuals such as Russian thistle.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

After the ore gravel is sieved and the particles less than 1/4 inch size are sluiced to produce the desired black sand concentrate, the physical (and possibly the chemical) potential for moisture retention of the reject material would be decreased. The proposed backfilling procedure would change the subsoil structure. The infiltration rates and water retention of the backfilled subsoil would be increased. The potential for re-establishing vegetation, especially for woody plant species, would be decreased due to the lessened water retention.

Vegetation on areas that would be disturbed (0.4 acres within the 4.1 acre parcel) would be lost until reclamation of these areas is complete. Overall, soil erosion would tend to increase because less vegetation would be established after reclamation. The rooting depth for plants would be adversely affected if no more than 12 inches of topsoil are stockpiled and redistributed over the backfilled areas. For example, roots of Indian ricegrass can penetrate at least 12 inches, and roots of Fourwing saltbush plants can penetrate over 12 inches deep. The potential for these and other perennial plants to re-occupy the area would be decreased, and individual plants would be less vigorous if they do not have adequate water-retaining soils at these rooting depths. Annual weeds, such as cheatgrass and Russian thistle, would be better able to utilize the available moisture better than most perennial plants. It would appear likely that plants in the reclaimed areas would be predominantly annuals for at least the first 3 years.

Mitigation

The following mitigation measures should be adopted:

(1) Stockpile separately topsoil and subsoil that is removed under this project. These stockpiles would be utilized during reclamation.

(2) Following the spreading of subsoil and topsoil the following species should be seeded at the rate indicated (double the rate if seed is broadcast only):

Species	Pounds Per Acre
Indian ricegrass	3
Sand dropseed	1
Shadscale	2
Winterfat (white sage)	2
Prostrate kochia	1
Yellow sweetclover	1

Residual Impacts

Low rainfall and expected low water retention capabilities of the soils would probably limit any reclamation success. If 4 inches (or more) of fine-textured topsoils were to be stockpiled for reclamation, annual plants would be the dominant vegetation for 5-10 years. After 10-20 years native grasses and shadscale would be established in reclaimed areas with adequate soil depths. If fine-textured topsoils are not present, and if the back-filled subsoils are coarse gravel materials, revegetation with native plant species could require over 20 years.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

No additional ground disturbance and vegetation removal would take place on 0.4 acres.

Mitigation

No mitigation would be necessary.

Residual impacts

Previously-disturbed areas (3.7 acres) would remain in their degraded condition.

RECREATION

Affected Environment

The Dolores River segment from Gateway, Colorado down to the confluence with the Colorado River was studied for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1979. This river segment was found suitable for "scenic" status. Rivers found to be "scenic" have shorelines that are largely undeveloped, but are accessible in places by roads.

The study noted that there was evidence of activity on the subject land. This area was eligible for "scenic" classification since the developments were well-screened from the river. BLM is required to maintain the character of these segments so as not to preclude their designation for the recommended status.

On this river, float trips are the major recreational activity in the vicinity of the activity. Most floatboaters are looking for a semi-primitive non-motorized experience. In 1994 there were 23 trips with 573 user-days documented on this portion of the Dolores River. Actual use was likely twice this amount.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The sounds and smells of mechanized mining equipment would have an adverse impact for 3 river seasons on recreationists seeking a semi-primitive non-motorized experience for up to an estimated 1 ½ miles along the river out of a 30-mile trip (5%).

Certain mining facilities are already in place and the proposed mining activity is in an area already disturbed. Due to this factor as well as the vegetative screening along the river, the proposed activity would not exceed the allowable contrast for a VRM Class II area. The removal of the facilities at the end of the mining period would enhance the visual character along the river corridor.

Mitigation

The mining activity could be suspended during the main recreation season, May 15 to June 30, to avoid the impacts to the semi-primitive nonmotorized experience.

Residual impacts

If the above mitigation were adopted there would be no residual impacts; otherwise for 3 seasons, boaters would have a less primitive river experience on 5% of their Dolores boat trip.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The mining facilities would not be removed from the river corridor. Therefore, the recreational character of the area would not be enhanced.

Mitigation

No mitigation would be necessary.

Residual Impacts

The recreational character of the area would not be enhanced.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment

The subject land is in a Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. In a VRM Class II area a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. An activity may be seen but should not attract undue attention.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed mining activity would not remove the vegetative screening along the river corridor, the only area visible to boaters on the river, and as such the suitability for a "scenic" W.& S. river classification would not be affected. Reclamation of the existing and future disturbances on 4.1 acres and the removal of the building would enhance the visual resource.

Mitigation

No mitigation would be necessary.

Residual Impacts

The enhancement of the visual resource from reclamation would remain as a residual impact.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

The subject land would remain in its present state (a building and 3.7 acres of disturbed soils and vegetation), with the result that its visual character would not be enhanced.

Mitigation

No mitigation would be necessary.

Residual impacts

The visual character of the subject land would not be enhanced.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Affected Environment

Cattle graze the Taylor allotment in which the proposed mine is located from October 15 through May 31.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

Approximately 0.4 acres of vegetation would not be available as forage. This vegetation would not be available until vegetation is again established, a period of at least 5 or 6 years.

Mitigation

Re-seed with plant species that are likely to establish quickly and would enhance available forage.

Residual impacts

Approximately 0.4 acres of vegetation would be unavailable for livestock grazing for at least 5 or 6 years.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

No additional forage would be lost within the Taylor grazing allotment.

Mitigation

No mitigation would be necessary.

Residual impacts

There would be no residual impacts.

WILDLIFE/ENDANGERED PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

Affected Environment

General

The vegetation found near and within the proposed project area is generally riparian in nature and includes tamarisk, Fremont cottonwood, willow, rabbitbrush, squawbush, greasewood, and shadscale. This "ribbon" of vegetation provides habitat for numerous species of wildlife. An agricultural area (orchard and alfalfa field) is also nearby which attracts wildlife. The most common wildlife present include mule deer, coyote, cottontail rabbit, rock dove, mourning dove, songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors including bald and golden eagles.

The Dolores River is a major aquatic habitat supporting both natives and introduced fishes. The native species include roundtail chub, speckled dace, flannelmouth sucker, mottled sculpin and bluehead sucker. Some of the introduced species include carp, channel catfish, black bullhead, white sucker, largemouth bass, bluegill, green sunfish, red shiner, sand shiner, fathead minnow and killifish.

Threatened and Endangered Species

There are no known threatened, endangered or sensitive plants within the proposed project area. The threatened or endangered fish species that may inhabit the Dolores River include the Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail chub, razorback sucker. The bald eagle and peregrine falcon could also be found within the general vicinity of the proposed project area.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

General

The proposed mining operation would occur in an area previously mined. Previous mining activity caused surface disturbance and removed the diverse plant community typically found within or near riparian areas. The disclimax vegetation that has invaded the site consists mostly of annual grasses and weed species. Impacts to terrestrial wildlife species should be minimal because the site was previously disturbed and activity would be confined to an area of approximately three acres.

The presence of people as well as noise from equipment would prevent some wildlife such as deer from occupying the mining site and adjacent area. Some loss of wildlife, such as deer, small reptiles and mammals would occur as a result of truck and vehicle traffic. These losses are expected to be small and have little or no effect on overall wildlife populations.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The aquatic species, including those listed as threatened or endangered, could be adversely affected by this mining proposal if larval or small fish are drawn into the water pump during water extraction from the Dolores River. Because the quantity of water that would be used is estimated to be less than 8 acre feet per year, no impact to fishes is anticipated through water depletion of the Dolores River.

There are no large cottonwood trees or cottonwood galleries to provide roost or nest sites for bald eagles near the proposed mine site. The bald eagle would not be impacted. No impacts would occur to the peregrine falcon because there are no known eyries or eyrie potential near the site. The proposed mine site is not known to be within a known peregrine falcon foraging territory.

Mitigation

Formal section 7 consultation was initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on January 19, 1995. Their reply dated February 6, 1995, referenced an intra-Service biological opinion determining "that the depletion fee for depletions of 100 acre-feet or less are no longer required because the Recovery Program has made sufficient progress to be the reasonable and prudent alternative to avoid the likelihood of jeopardy to the endangered fishes and to avoid destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitat by depletions of 100 acre feet or less."

To avoid impacts to fishes in the Dolores River, water extraction must meet other USFWS requirements and specification. The pump can be operated only during specific timeframes and the intake must be screened with mesh size determined by USFWS.

Water should not be pumped from the mouth of tributaries or from eddies and backwaters. Pumping should not be allowed between 8 PM and 9 AM from June through August to avoid larval drift. When feasible, pumps should be located off-channel or in the main current rather than near shore. The intake should be screened with 1/8 inch mesh. The depletion fee for this project is waived because less than 100 acre-feet of water will be extracted from the Colorado River system.

Residual Impacts

Presence of people and noise from equipment would result in some wildlife displacement. Some mobile animals are expected to be killed by truck and vehicle traffic. No adverse residual impacts are expected for T&E animals.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

No impacts would occur.

Mitigation

No mitigation would be necessary.

Residual Impacts

No residual impacts would occur.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment

East-central Utah has served as a homeland for American Indians for at least the past 12,000 years. Evidence has been found in the area for the Paleo-Indian tradition, the Archaic, Anasazi and Fremont cultures, historic Utes, and Euro-Americans (Pierson 1980; Thompson, 1979; Reed, 1990). Sites have been found in other areas along the Dolores River representing these cultures.

A cultural resource inventory was conducted by BLM archaeologist Bruce Louthan on December 13, 1994. A block of approximately 300 by 600 feet was inspected, with no cultural remains or sites found. In addition, the road into the mine site was inspected with only one possible isolated flake found. It should be noted that over 90 percent of the ground surface in the area of the mine had been previously disturbed. This verifies a cultural reconnaissance done in 1978 by BLM archaeologist, Janet Pierson. Unfortunately no map of that reconnaissance could be found so a complete re-inventory was necessary.

Impacts of the Proposed Action

There would be no impacts to cultural resources.

Mitigation

No mitigation measures are required.

Residual Impacts

There would be no residual impacts.

Impacts of the No-Action Alternative

There would be no impacts.

Mitigation

No mitigation would be necessary.

Residual Impacts

There would be no residual impacts.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

With the exception of the subject land site, only 1 placer gold mining operation and 2 adjacent placer gold deposits have been reported along the Dolores River segment between the State Line and the rivers' confluence with the Colorado River:

(1) A long-idle, abandoned site is located in T23S, R25E, Section 17: SE 1/4, on the north side of the river. This site is covered by an inactive 43 CFR 3809 plan of operations. Pits, trenches, parts of processing equipment and junk are present. Total acreage disturbed at this abandoned site is roughly 5 acres, none of which has been reclaimed.

A group of mining claimants has proposed placer mining on mining claims which encompass the above-referenced site; acreage involved is approximately 150 acres. No action has been taken by BLM on processing the necessary 43 CFR 3809 plan of operations until the matter of allowing placer mining has been determined (see [43 CFR 3736.1(b); 43 CFR 3736.2].

(2) Two long-idle, adjacent placer gold deposits are located In T23S, R24E, Sections 9 and 16, on the south bank of the river. A few ounces of placer gold were probably recovered from the gravels before 1973; however, no description of deposit size or workings are available. Some of the area is covered by a 43 CFR 3809 plan of operations for which there has been no noticeable activity.

The subject land itself is located on the site of a long-idle, small placer gold deposit, according to available literature. As of 1977, cumulative reported land surface disturbance totalled slightly over 1 acre, and consisted of several dozer trenches. At present, the site is covered by one 43 CFR mining notice as well as by two 43 CFR plans of operations, each of which is inactive. Total land disturbance to date is in excess of 4 acres (available literature; BLM files and records). These 4 acres, combined with that of the other reported sites equals cumulative placer mining land disturbance (to date) of slightly over 9 acres.

If this proposed plan of operations (UTU-72488) is approved, and if the mining operator complies with plan stipulations, the cumulative land disturbance on the subject land could be essentially reclaimed, possibly within 5 or 6 years. Future mining activity from that date would depend on the degree of success/profitability achieved by the operator. If deemed potentially profitable, placer mining activity during the next 10 years would probably progress in an easterly direction from the present proposed site (see Attachment 2). The amount of future acreage involved is uncertain, but such acreage would depend on the degree on gravel availability, metal recoveries and mining operator optimism.

Recreational activities, especially floatboating on the Dolores River has, and will, in the future become an important land use; reclamation of the proposed mining site would tend to enhance such activities. Cattle grazing, another land use, would likewise tend to be enhanced by site reclamation.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Persons and Agencies Consulted

Utah State Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality, 288 North 1460 West, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870.
Attn.: Mr. Kiran L. Bhayani, (801) 538-6146

Utah State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 355 West North Temple, 3 Triad Center, Suite 350, Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203.
Attn.: Mr. Anthony A. Gallegos, (801) 538-5340

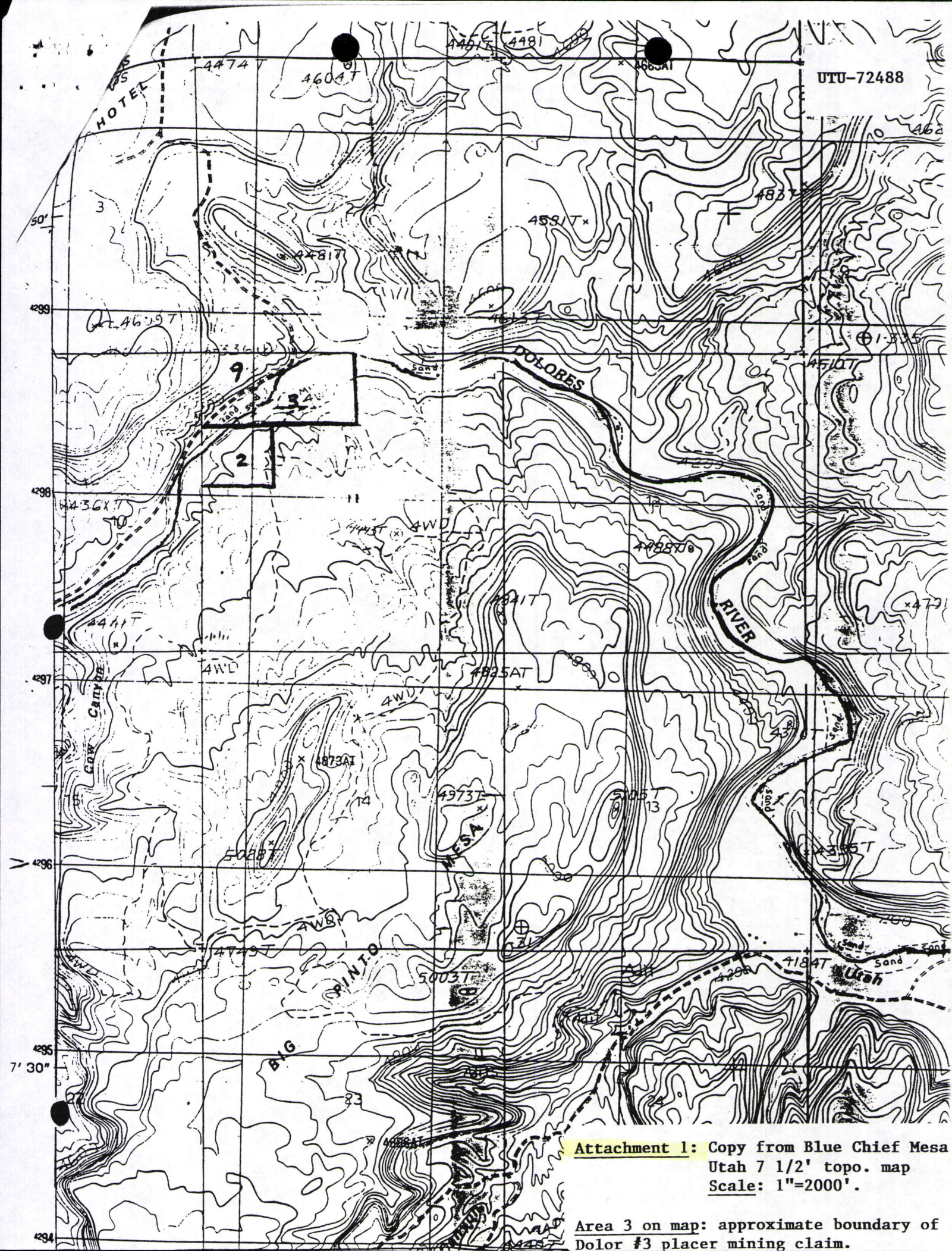
Utah State Division of Wildlife Resources, Moab Native Field Office, 1165 South Highway 191, Suite 4, Moab, Utah 84532.
Attn.: Ms. Melissa Trammel, (801) 259-3780

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 145 East 1300 South, Suite 404, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.
Attn.: Mr. Robert D. Williams

Notification of the preparation of the environmental assessment was made on the EA Bulletin Board on November 22, 1994.

Appendixes

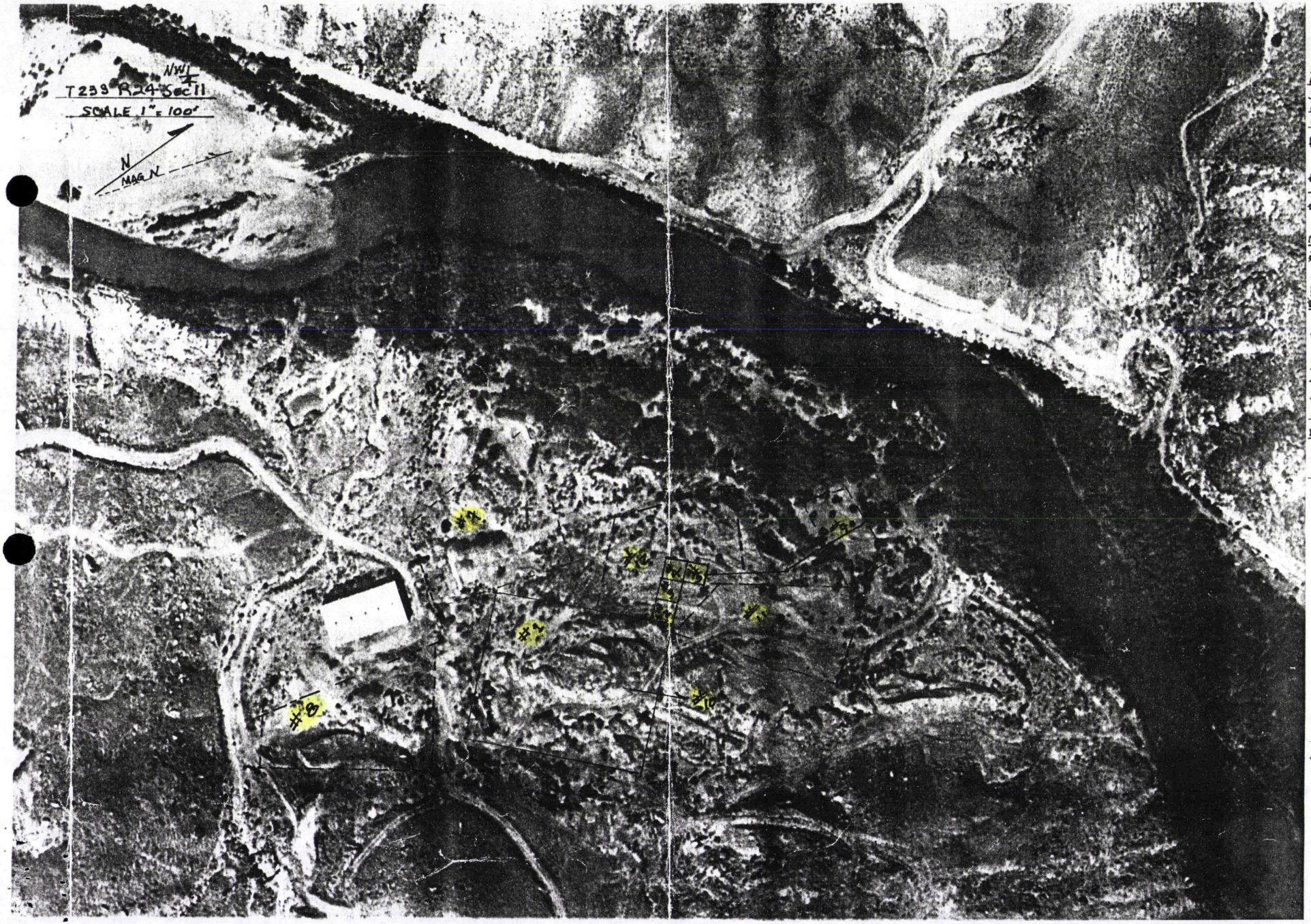
Attachment 1: Copy of topographic map
Attachment 2: Copy of vertical air photograph
Attachment 3: Copy of schematic drawing showing processing plan
Attachment 4: Copy of Temporary Approved Water Rights Application (2pp)



Attachment 1: Copy from Blue Chief Mesa Utah 7 1/2' topo. map
Scale: 1"=2000'.

Area 3 on map: approximate boundary of Dolor #3 placer mining claim.

ATTACHMENT #2



CODE

#1 MEAD ORE MINE AREA

#2 WASH PLANT

#3 WASTE RECOVERY

#4 SILT POND

#5 H₂O Recycle MAKEUP POND

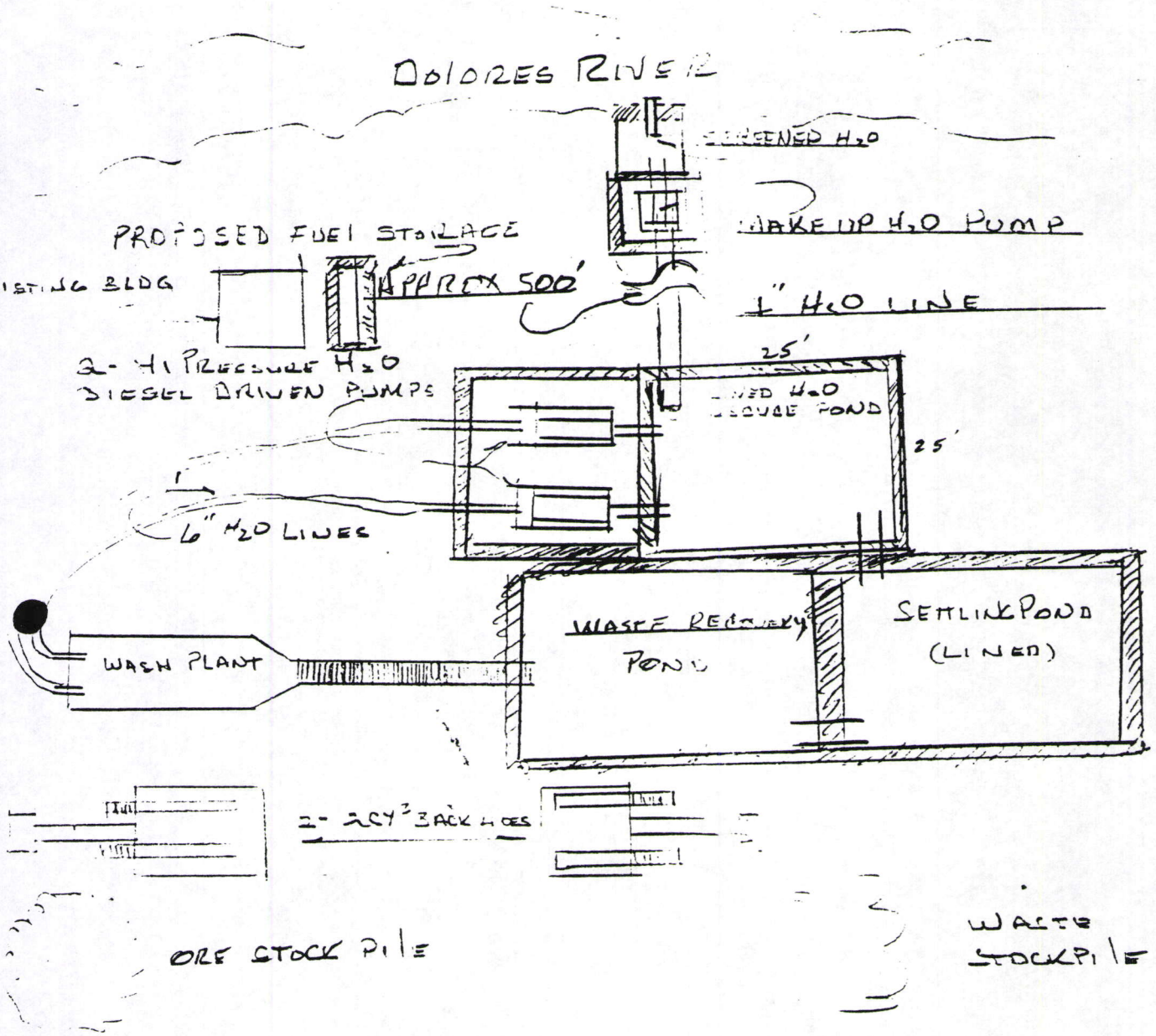
#6 H₂O RIVER DRAW PUMP & 4" PIPELINE

#7, #8, #11, #12 PROPOSED RECLAMATION AREAS

#10 MINING DIRECTION

#9 OLD TAILING AREA

AMMI MINE PLAN CLAIM #3



AREAS TO BE
RECLAIMED
&
MINED

PLAN OF OPERATION
AMAX DOLOR PROJECT
18 OCTOBER, 1994
D. JOHNSON, PROJ ENGR

Attachment 3

STATE ENGINEER'S ENDORSEMENT

WATER RIGHT NUMBER: 05 - 2475 APPLICATION NO. T67925

1. June 28, 1994 Application received by MP.

2. June 28, 1994 Application designated for APPROVAL by MP and KLJ.

3. Comments:

Conditions:
This application is hereby APPROVED, dated July 22, 1994, subject to prior rights and this application will expire on July 22, 1995.

Robert L. Morgan, P.E.
State Engineer

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Ted Stewart
Executive Director

Robert L. Morgan
State Engineer

1636 West North Temple, Suite 220
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3156
801-538-7240
801-538-7467 (Fax)

UTU-72488

July 22, 1994

Dale Snyder
145 South 1350 East
Lehi, UT 84043

Dear Applicant:

RE: TEMPORARY APPLICATION
NUMBER 05-2475 (T67925)

Enclosed is a copy of approved Temporary Application Number 05-2475 (T67925). This is your authority to construct your works and to divert the water for the uses described.

While this approved application does give you our permission to divert and use water, it does not grant easements through public or private lands in order to gain access to the source nor to convey the water to the place of use, nor does this approval eliminate the need for such other permits as may be required by this Division or any other agency in implementing your diversion.

This application will expire July 22, 1995, and it is expected that no diversion or use of the water will be done after that date unless another proposal has been made and approved.

Your contact with this office, should you need it, is with the Regional Engineer, Mark Page. The telephone number is (801)637-1303.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Morgan

Robert L. Morgan, P.E.
State Engineer

RLM:mw

Encl.: Copy of Approved Temporary Application

Attachment 4

STATE ENGINEER'S ENDORSEMENT

WATER RIGHT NUMBER: 05 - 2475 APPLICATION NO. T67925

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State Engineer